

WE CLAIM:

1. A system for defining a plurality of work zones within an otherwise open area comprising:

5 a framework formed from a plurality of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface, the poles interconnected by a plurality of crossbeams at a height substantially above a standing user, at least some of the poles adapted to provide a raceway for the delivery of utilities, the framework capable of being arranged in a plurality of substantially non-linear patterns and including an at least partially open area between adjacent poles.

10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein groups of three poles are arranged at an angle of 120°.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein at least some of the poles are adapted to be attached to a work environment element selected from the group consisting of work surfaces, storage members, monitor support  
15 members, and dividing screens.

4. The system of claim 3 further comprising one or more base surface mats.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein the mats include a curved portion.

20 6. The system of claim 5 further comprising movable work surfaces having a plurality of legs with wheels attached to a bottom portion thereof.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the movable work surface includes a top surface that is both vertically and angularly adjustable.

8. A system for defining a plurality of work zones within an  
25 otherwise open area comprising:

a framework formed from a plurality of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface, the poles interconnected by a plurality

of crossbeams, the framework capable of being configured in groups of from one to six poles with a plurality of the groups having one or more work surfaces attached thereto in order to form a work area for a user.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein at least some of the poles have  
5 two crossbeams extending from a top portion thereof, the two connection members extending at an angle substantially greater than 90° and substantially less than 180°.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein at least some of the poles and crossbeams adapted to provide a raceway for the delivery of utilities.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein one or more of the crossbeams  
10 are pivotable and adjustable in length.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein the poles have an outer surface having three distinct and generally curved portions.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein a vertically extending channel  
15 separates each of the three generally curved portions.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein at least one of the vertically extending channels is adapted to receive a hook attachment member extending from a work environment element.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the hook attachment member is  
20 adapted to attach a work surface to a pole.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the vertically extending channel has a dovetail shape.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the poles have a height substantially greater than six feet.

18. A system for defining a plurality of work zones within an otherwise open area comprising:

a framework formed from a plurality of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface with an at least partially open area defined between adjacent poles, the poles interconnected by a plurality of crossbeams at a height substantially above a standing user, at least some of the poles and crossbeams adapted to provide a raceway for the delivery of power and data cabling, and the framework capable of being configured in a plurality of nonlinear patterns in order to form a work area for a group of users.

19. A work space management and furniture system to assist facility space planning comprising:

a plurality of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface with an at least partially open area defined between adjacent poles, the poles interconnected by a plurality of crossbeams, the crossbeams adapted to be attached to the poles such that most groups of two crossbeams form an obtuse angle; and

at least some of the poles and crossbeams are attached to a work environment element selected from the group consisting of work surfaces, storage members, monitor support members, and dividing screens.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the groups of three poles are arranged to form an angle equal to 120°.

21. A system for configuring a work environment comprising:  
a framework formed from a plurality of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface and having a top portion located above a standing user and a plurality of crossbeams interconnecting the poles at a top portion thereof, at least some of the poles and crossbeams adapted to provide a raceway for the delivery of power and data cabling;

a plurality of substantially nonrigid barrier members extending between at least some of the plurality of spaced apart poles; and

- a plurality of work environment elements adapted to be readily attached and removed from at least one of the poles and crossbeams, the
- 5 work environment elements selected from a group consisting of work surfaces, and storage members.

22. The system of claim 21 further comprising a plurality of work surface attached to at least some of said poles.

23. The system of claim 22 further comprising a plurality of power
- 10 receptacles attached to at least some of the poles adjacent a work surface.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein a plurality of non-rigid barrier member screens extend between a plurality of poles.

25. The system of claim 24 further comprising an adjustable monitor support attached to a pole.

- 15 26. The system of claim 25 further comprising a plurality of movable work surfaces

27. The system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of movable work surfaces have a height substantially less than the plurality of work surfaces.

28. A furniture and power distribution system for a work
- 20 environment comprising:

a framework formed from a plurality of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface with an at least partially open area defined between adjacent poles and having a top portion located above a standing user and a plurality of crossbeams interconnecting the poles at a top

25 portion thereof, each pole adapted to be attached to between only one and three crossbeams and at least some of the poles and crossbeams adapted to provide a raceway for the delivery of power and data cabling; and

a plurality of work environment elements adapted to be readily attached to and removed from the poles.

29. A system for defining a plurality of work zones within an otherwise open area comprising:

- 5 a framework formed from a plurality of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface, the poles interconnected by a plurality of crossbeams at a height substantially above a standing user, at least some of the poles and crossbeams adapted to provide a raceway for the delivery of power cabling with at least some of the poles having a power receptacle  
10 attached thereto, each pole capable of being attached to only three or less crossbeams with most groups of two crossbeams forming an obtuse angle; and

a plurality of work surfaces positioned adjacent at least some of the plurality of poles, each work surface having at least one curved portion.

- 15 30. The system of claim 29 wherein the barrier member is formed from a generally lightweight material.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein the barrier has an acoustical adsorption capability.

- 20 32. The system of claim 31 wherein the barrier is formed from a tackable material.

33. The system of claim 32 wherein at least some of the storage members have a portion formed from a nonrigid material.

34. The system of claim 33 wherein at least some of the storage members are pivotable attached to the framework.

- 25 35. A system for defining a plurality of work zones within an otherwise open area comprising:

a first group and a second group of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface, the poles interconnected by a plurality of crossbeams at a height substantially above a standing user, at least some of the poles adapted to provide a raceway for the delivery of utilities, each  
5 pole capable of being attached to one or more crossbeams with most groups of two crossbeams forming an obtuse angle, the first group and the second group interconnected by a crossbeam adjustable in length.

36. The system of claim 35 wherein the cross-beam is pivotable.

37. The system of claim 36 herein at least some of the poles are  
10 adapted to be attached to a work environment element selected from the group consisting of work surfaces, storage members, monitor support members, and dividing screens.

38. The system of claim 38 further comprising movable work surfaces having a plurality of legs with wheels attached to a bottom portion  
15 thereof.

39. The system of claim 38 wherein the poles have an outer surface having three distinct and generally curved portions.

40. The system of claim 39 wherein a vertically extending channel separates each of the three generally curved portions.

20 41. The system of claim 40 wherein at least one of the vertically extending channels includes a plurality of spaced apart apertures formed in two vertically extending columns.

42. The system of claim 41 wherein the vertically extending channel has a dovetail shape.

25 43. A movable work surface comprising:  
a work surface having a plurality of legs extending downward therefrom and a plurality of wheels attached to the legs, the work surface

capable of both vertical movement while maintaining a level position and angular adjustment from a fixed front edge position and a fixed back edge position.

44. The movable work surface of claim 43 wherein the legs include  
5 locking elements and one or more actuation members attached to a bottom surface of the work surface.

45. The movable work surface of claim 44 wherein two actuation  
members are positioned adjacent a first side and a second side, respectively,  
of the bottom surface of the work surface.

46. The movable work surface of claim 45 wherein one actuation  
10 member controls locking elements attached to a pair of front legs and the  
other actuation member controls locking elements attached to a pair of back  
legs.

47. The movable work surface of claim 46 wherein at least one of  
15 the pair of front legs and the pair of back legs are pivotably connected to a  
frame member adjacent the wheels.

48. The movable work surface of claim 47 wherein the actuation  
members are connected to cables that extend into the legs and through a  
housing and a movable spool, the movable spool having an outside surface  
20 including a cut-out portion.

49. The movable work surface of claim 48 wherein the legs include  
an outer portion having a plurality of vertically aligned apertures.

50. The movable work surface of claim 49 further comprising a  
plurality of ball bearings positioned adjacent the pin and adapted to be  
25 received within a selected aperture.

51. A system for defining a plurality of work zones within an  
otherwise open area comprising:

a framework formed from a plurality of spaced apart poles extending upward from a base surface, the poles interconnected by a plurality of crossbeams at a height substantially above a standing user, at least some of the poles adapted to provide an interior raceway for the delivery of power cabling and an exterior raceway for the delivery of data cabling.

52. The system of claim 51 wherein a substantial portion of the poles have an outer surface formed from a plurality of distinct curved portions with a vertically extending channel separating each of the curved portions.

53. The system of claim 52 wherein the plurality of distinctly curved portions.

54. The system of claim 53 wherein at least one of the distinct curved portions includes an aperture for connection to a power receptacle.

55. The system of claim 54 wherein at least one of the vertically extending channels includes a plurality of apertures adapted to receive a hook-shaped attachment member connected to a work environment element.

56. The system of claim 55 wherein the vertically extending channel has a dovetail shape.

57. The system of claim 56 wherein each pole is attached to a supporting base.

58. The system of claim 57 wherein the poles are formed from more than one piece.

59. The system of claim 57 wherein the poles are formed from three separate portions.

60. The system of claim 59 wherein each of the three separate portions includes an outwardly extending wall adapted to interconnect the three separate portions.



61. The system of claim 51 wherein at least some of the crossbeams include an oval shaped tube.

62. The system of claim 61 further comprising a trough having longitudinally extending dividing element separating an interior portion of at least some of the crossbeams into two portions for the passage of two separate utilities.

63. The system of claim 62 wherein at least some of the crossbeams have a plurality of apertures therein.

64. An adjustable monitor lift comprising:  
a height adjustable support surface capable of supporting a monitor;  
a vertically movable rod attached to the support surface;  
a drive member capable of moving the rod and the support surface upward and downward wherein the support surface can be adjusted upward and downward so as to selectively position the support surface as needed by a user.

65. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 64 wherein the drive member is a hydraulic cylinder.

66. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 65 wherein a foot actuation element is attached to the hydraulic cylinder.

67. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 64 wherein the drive member is a threaded screw attached to a threaded collar mounted within a work surface.

68. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 67 wherein the support surface is connected to a rotatable surface.

69. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 68 wherein the support surface and rotatable surface are interconnected by an intermediate surface having a plurality of bearings attached to the bottom portion thereof.

70. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 64 wherein the monitor lift is  
5 attached to a pole.

71. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 70 wherein the drive mechanism is a motor.

72. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 71 wherein the support surface is attached to a slide member which is mounted within a frame.

10 73. The adjustable monitor lift of claim 72 wherein the frame is attached to the pole.

74. A power distribution assembly comprising:  
a plurality of interconnected wafers;  
two or more angularly spaced apertures formed between  
15 adjacent wafers, the apertures adapted to receive an electrical connection member, the apertures enclosing an electrical contact.

75. The power distribution assembly of claim 74 wherein three apertures are formed between adjacent wafer.

76. The power distribution assembly of claim 75 wherein the  
20 electrical contact is formed from a single element.

77. The power distribution assembly of claim 76 wherein 12 or more wafers are used to form a power distribution block.

78. The power distribution assembly of claim 77 wherein two or more power distribution blocks are interconnected.

79. The power distribution assembly of claim 78 wherein three distribution blocks are used within a pole..